

In reply refer to Initials
and No.

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NAVY DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF NAVAL OPERATIONS
WASHINGTON

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~~U. S. SECRET~~

12 April 1943

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From: Captain H.S. Babbitt, U.S. Navy (Ret.)
To: Director of Naval Intelligence
Via: Op-16-1-P ✓
Subject: Preparation of Urgent Strategic Studies.
References: (a) ComAmphFor Letter (SECRET), Serial 0037,
dated January 20, 1943.
(b) Cominch Second Endorsement (SECRET), Serial 00161,
dated January 27, 1943.
Enclosures: (A) Recommended Material of Strategic Studies.
(B) Research and Organization Record (List of Monographs).
(C) Recommended Form for Strategic Studies.

1. I have to bring to attention the following (and this is a matter which should not be relegated to any intermediaries nor delayed nor bypassed in red tape; every word should be considered; and it should be brought to direct attention of Vice-Chief of Naval Operations and of Cominch for necessary ameliorative and expediting action):

2. The strategic studies called for in References, are not being, and cannot be, provided with necessary promptitude to be of use for putative coming early operations, under present procedures and directives, and with present continual reorganizing, continued organizational studies, and repeated strivings for perfection.

3. There is a great amount of material, such as called for in References, which is already available, or soon to be available, if it can only be gotten out in time to be of use to the forces who might use it. The small unit F-11 (now P-3) has been working on this night and day, has completed several of the called-for studies (ONI-101, ONI-102, ONI-103, ONI-109), and has several more in various stages (ONI-100 nearly ready; and ONI-104, ONI-105, ONI-108, started). These have been produced nearly as fast as the Reproduction Unit (also working continuously) has been able to print them: - in other words, almost as fast as physically possible; and certainly at least ten (10) times as fast as or any other Agency has gotten out anything to my knowledge.

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4. If uninterrupted, this small unit can further get out studies previously mentioned, as follows:

ONI-100, by approx. 20 April
ONI-104, by approx. 30 April
ONI-106, by approx. 15 May

5. There are other Agencies (M.I.S. and O.S.S.) who are equipped and have personnel and facilities, to prepare, and to edit and publish, strategic studies. I recommend that these be requested to prepare, and to edit, publish and complete (as per References, and as per Enclosure (A)) and furnish to Navy, 300 completed copies each, of strategic studies, as promptly and early as possible, on following:

M.I.S., on South and West France;
Spain and Portugal;
Norway;
O.S.S., on Greek Coast;
Greek Aegean Islands;
Yugoslavia(coast).

(Or any of the above they can be persuaded to or will undertake, to provide, - but including as called for in the References).

6. This recommendation is solely to purpose to EXPEDITE the getting out of such material as possible and as is already available, physically, in time to be of use during present putative coming operations.

7. The preceding does not conflict with the orders toward amalgamation for joint work of the services, - and the same is being proceeded with loyally (but it is to be recognized there are difficulties, and that that will take time: For one thing, there appears to be no particular counterpart of P-3 (ex F-11), in either M.I.S. or O.S.S., with which to join; and for another, there has hitherto been no counterpart publication by either of these Agencies corresponding to our Field Monographs (or to the coverage called for by References, - only counterpart, known to me, is [REDACTED]). The Army Surveys of hitherto do not begin to meet the requirements specified in References).

I suggest that in present urgency for time, the work of paragraphs 4 and 5 preceding, should however at this time be given higher (the very highest) priority.

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8. I further, most earnestly, urge, that in preparation of the studies of Paragraphs 4 and 5, the greater effort to be given to expediting them, rather than to strivings for absolute perfection. (Thus for example, an "Order of Battle", or an "Estimate of Situation", or an older map (whether superseded or not), necessarily shows only the (estimated or supposed, or putative or possible) position at a certain (past) time-space point; and such was inserted in the WEST AFRICA Monograph (ONI-74, see p. 501 (Annex "C") thereof) at express suggestion of the then M.I.S. Furthermore, such, though out-dated, may nonetheless be of great value (as in the instance cited, - ONI-74, p. 501 (Annex "C") thereof).

9. I recommend that the studies of Paragraphs 4 and 5, be gotten out soon as possible, - to permit that such information as is available, may be made available to the forces that might use it, in time for them to use it; and that inaccuracies found later, then be corrected by sending out the usual correctional changes, and by usual (prescribed) and normal correctional procedures.

10. I earnestly request that this be given the most thorough consideration and attention, - all phases, and including the Enclosures.

H.S. Babbitt

cc: Op-16-P-1 ✓
Op-16-P-3

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